

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-26 and 28-52 are presently active in this case. Claims 2-6 and 28-32 are amended and Claims 1 and 27 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

The outstanding Office Action rejects Claims 1 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Gustavsson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,721,568, herein “Gustavsson”); and objects to Claims 2-26 and 28-52 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of the allowable subject matter.

In regard to the rejection of Claims 1 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Gustavsson, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1 and 27, rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

The outstanding Office Action objects to Claims 2-26 and 28-52 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In light of this indication, Applicants have rewritten Claims 2-6 and 28-32 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and Claims 2-6 and 28-32 no longer depend on Claim 1 or 27. Consequently, Claims 7-26 and 32-52 no longer depend on Claim 1 or 27, either. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-26 and 28-52 are in

condition for allowance and request that the objection to Claims 2-26 and 28-52 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that each and every one of Claims 2-26 and 28-52 defines patentable subject matter, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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